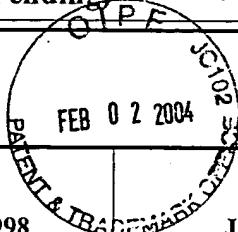


TRANSMITTAL LETTER
(General - Patent Pending)

Docket No.
98-109

In Re Application Of: WALKER et al.



Serial No.
09/219,267

Filing Date
December 23, 1998

Examiner
James W. Myhre

Group Art Unit
3622

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FACILITATING ELECTRONIC COMMERCE THROUGH PROVIDING
CROSS-BENEFITS DURING A TRANSACTION

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TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

GROUP 3600

Transmitted herewith is:

Request for Reconsideration (Prematurity of Final Rejection - MPEP §706.07(c)) (4 pp.) (x2);
Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (5 pp.);
PTO Form-1449 (1 pg.) and references cited therein (4); and
Return Receipt Postcard.

in the above identified application.

No additional fee is required.
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Dated: January 28, 2004

P. Alderucci
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WR NO. 22927
walkerdigital.com

I certify that this document and fee is being deposited
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22313-1450.

Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

Michael D. Brinton

Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

WALKER et al.

Application No.: 09/219,267

Filed: December 23, 1998

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
FACILITATING ELECTRONIC
COMMERCE THROUGH
PROVIDING CROSS-BENEFITS
DURING A TRANSACTION

Customer No.: 22927

-) Group Art Unit: 3622
-)
-) Examiner: James W. Myhre
-)
-)
-) **REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**
-) **(Prematureness of Final Rejection –**
-) **MPEP - §706.07(c))**
-)
-) Attorney Docket No.: 98-109
-)
-) Walker Digital, LLC
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-) (203) 461-7300/fax
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope with sufficient postage and addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: 01/28/04 By: Michael Brinton
Michael D. Brinton

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION
(PREMATURENESS OF FINAL REJECTION - MPEP §706.07(c))

Action Requested

Applicants request that the finality of the Office Action mailed January 9, 2004 (paper no. 31) be withdrawn and prosecution on the present application be reopened.

Points to be Reviewed

Whether the Office Action mailed January 9, 2004 was made final prematurely, given that a new ground of rejection of claims **5, 45 and 62** was entered in that Office Action.

Summary of Facts Involved

The Examiner in the Office Action mailed January 9, 2004 introduced a new ground of rejection of claims **5, 45 and 62**, but made that Office Action final.

This rejection was not necessitated by Applicants amendments - Applicants did not amend any claim after any Office Action, much less amend claims **5, 45 and 62**.

This rejection also was not necessitated by any information submitted by Applicants - the rejection was not based on information submitted in an IDS filed during the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.97(c).

Full Statement of Facts Involved

In the First Office Action (mailed May 17, 2001) and the Second Office Action (mailed February 14, 2002), all claims were rejected in light of either:

Logan,

Logan and Saxe, or

Logan and Weinblatt.

Applicants filed an Appeal Brief, and the Examiner reopened prosecution to enter a new ground of rejection in the Third Office Action. In the Third Office Action (mailed April 22, 2003), all claims were rejected in light of either:

Myhre,

Myhre and Saxe, or

Myhre and Weinblatt.

Applicants did not amend any claims after the Third Office Action (or after any other Office Action for that matter)

Then, in the Fourth Office Action (mailed January 9, 2004), claims **5, 45 and 62** were rejected in view of a new combination of:

Myhre and Logan.

This was a new rejection of claims **5, 45 and 62**. In fact, Myhre and Logan were never previously combined in any rejection of any claim.

Despite the new grounds of rejection, this Fourth Office Action was made final. No reasoning was provided for why this Office Action was made final.

Arguments and Authorities

According to MPEP 706.07(a) (8th Ed., rev. 1, Feb. 2003):

"second or any subsequent actions on the merits shall be final, **except** where the examiner introduces a new ground of rejection that is neither necessitated by applicant's amendment of the claims nor based on information submitted in an information disclosure statement filed during the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.97(c) with the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p)."

(emphasis added)

The Fourth Office Action introduced a new ground of rejection (claims **5, 45 and 62** were rejected in light of a combination of Myhre and Logan). This new rejection was neither necessitated by applicant's amendment of the claims (Applicants did not amend the claims) nor based on information submitted in an information disclosure statement filed during the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.97(c) with the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (neither Myhre nor Logan was submitted in any such IDS).

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons it is submitted that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance and the Examiner's early re-examination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Alternatively, if there remains any question regarding the present application or any of the cited references, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is cordially requested to contact Dean Alderucci at telephone number 203-461-7337 or via electronic mail at Alderucci@WalkerDigital.com.

While no fees are believed to be due at this time, please charge any fees that may be required for this Request for Reconsideration to Deposit Account No. 50-0271. Furthermore, should an extension of time be required, please grant any extension of time which may be required to make this Amendment timely, and please charge any fee for such an extension to Deposit Account No. 50-0271.

Respectfully submitted,



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January 28, 2004

Date